



## ***IMPORTANCE OF USING SEAT BELTS/BULLDOZER HIGHWALL ACCIDENT***



On March 19, 2007, a bulldozer operator, while pushing overburden, inadvertently ran the dozer over the edge of a highwall. The dozer slid over the approximately 34-ft highwall, rolled and landed upright on the pit floor. The operator exited the cab without assistance. He was hospitalized and held for observation. The investigation determined that the operator was wearing his seat belt.

### **Best Practices:**

1. Before work begins, travel and examine the perimeter of the highwall, checking for signs of instability.
2. Where possible, pushing operations should be conducted toward the highwall, remaining a set, safe distance from the edge.
3. Mark or reference the highwall edge and always maintain a safe distance from the highwall.
4. Always maintain adequate illumination when operating in low visibility situations.
5. Always wear the provided seat belt when operating mobile equipment.

